



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INDEPENDENCE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO OXYCONTIN CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute Oxycontin.

**Billy Joe Thompson**, 30, of Independence, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to the charge contained in a Jan. 11, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty today, **Thompson** admitted that he conspired with four co-defendants to distribute at least 300 grams of Oxycontin, a controlled substance only available by prescription, from Oct. 1, 2003, to May 31, 2004. **Thompson** obtained prescriptions for Oxycontin from an Overland Park, Kan., physician, then arranged for other people to buy some of his pills.

**Thompson** is the final co-defendant to plead guilty in this case. Four co-defendants have already been sentenced.

\* **James Hardy**, 53, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on Jan. 27, 2006, to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. On Oct. 13, 2005, **Hardy** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy.

\* **Carla S. Whisler**, 36, of Independence, was sentenced on Feb. 8, 2006, to two years in federal prison without parole. **Whisler** pleaded guilty on Oct. 21, 2005, to her role in the conspiracy.

\* **Bucksley Barnhill**, 24, of Kansas City, was sentenced on March 27, 2006, to five years of probation. **Barnhill** pleaded guilty on Nov. 9, 2005, to his role in the conspiracy. **Barnhill** admitted that he received a prescription for Oxycontin from the same Independence physician as

**Thompson**, then sold a portion of his prescription to Eric J. Thompson, who is deceased, for re-sale in Kentucky.

\* **Jarod Call**, 21, Independence, was sentenced on Aug. 22, 2005, to four years of probation. **Call** pleaded on June 22, 2005, to his role in the conspiracy.

Under federal statutes, **Thompson** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, and the U.S. Marshal's Office.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)